

Hawaii MARINE

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Volume 30, Number 17

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

May 10, 2001

3rd Marines depart for Australia

Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible
Combat Correspondent

The last of approximately 1,500 deploying Marines of 3rd Marine Regiment departed Tuesday for Australia to participate in Exercise Tandem Thrust 2001.

The Marines from 1st Bn., 12th Marines; 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines; Headquarters Co. and Combat Support Co., 3rd Marine Regiment will be participating in the five-week exercise in Australia in order to improve their Marine Air Ground Task Force capabilities. "The mission of 3rd Marines in Tandem

Thrust is to deploy for the purpose of honing our skills in MAGTF operations, specifically in the area of maritime prepositioning force operations and working with our Australian allies to further improve or promote interoperability," said Col. R.B. Peele, the 3rd Marine Regiment commanding officer.

The Marines will coordinate with units from California and Okinawa, Japan as well as the Australian military to exercise their capabilities in MAGTF operations.

"In our expeditionary character we pretty much deploy and operate in a MAGTF. We

are deploying to Australia formulating a special MAGTF of commands from throughout the United States and overseas," said Col. Peele.

"We have people coming to us from Camp Pendleton, Calif., the 1st Marine Division; as well as from 3rd Marine Division and other forces from Japan. We are essentially being globally sourced to formulate this MAGTF and function in our expeditionary character to conduct this operation," Col. Peele commented.

The Marines of the Regiment are also enthusiastic about the opportunity to train over-

seas with the Australian military.

"This is all very exciting, I've never been to Australia before so it's a good experience for me," said Pfc. Joseph L. Augustus, an administration clerk with Headquarters Co., 3rd Marine Regiment.

Whatever their reason for deploying overseas, the Marines of 3rd Marine Regiment will surely receive effective and educational training to help them accomplish their mission and provide an effective force in readiness, always prepared at a moment's notice to rush in and handle any mission they may be given.

Showing off



Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

Private First Class Eldon J. Tilley, a rifleman with 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, rappels down the Boondocker Training Area rappel tower May 3, while wives participating in 1/3's "Jane Wayne Day" watch from the cool shadow of the tower. For more on 1/3's "Jayne Wayne Day," see page A-3.

VR-51 receives top award honors

Navy LT. Ben Willkie
VR-51 Public Affairs

The "Windjammers" of Fleet Logistics Squadron 51 are the 2000 recipients of both the Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award and the Congressman Bill Young Award as the Navy's top operational C-20 squadron.

This is the second consecutive year the squadron has won the Aviation Safety Award.

"It is a great accomplishment for a squadron to simultaneously win both of these awards," said VR-51 Cmdr. Tom Hinderleider, VR-51 commanding officer. "It's a direct reflection on the ded-



Photo courtesy of VR-51

One of VR-51's C-20s soars above K-Bay waters during operations.

ication and teamwork of all of our personnel who have pulled together to accomplish great things. I'm very proud of each and every one of them."

Highlighting VR-51's accomplishments was a quick response mission to

transport an Air Force medical team from Yemen to Djibouti to Naples, Italy in the hours that followed the USS Cole bombing; while simultaneously flying to Wake Island to return the Secretary of the Navy to Washington to deal with the crisis.

The Windjammer crew in Yemen flew the only Navy aircraft that participated in the aeromedical evacuation of 38 Sailors injured in the terrorist attack on the USS Cole.

During 2000, VR-51 performed missions to more than 35 countries and circled the globe during 4 separate trips. The squadron completed a ground

See VR-51, A-11

CG honors base civilians

The 16th annual Hawaii Military Appreciation Week will be held from May 17-23, 2001, and is sponsored by the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce. This is also the time to honor our civilian employees at MCB Hawaii. On Thursday, May 23, 2001, at 11 a.m., a special luncheon is scheduled at Anderson Hall to honor these "civilian Marines."

The strength and effectiveness of the United States government depends, in large part, on the knowledge, dedication and skill of federal employees. Whether they serve here at MCB Hawaii or at other posts throughout the Department of Defense, employees of the federal government contribute substantially to the social, political and economical stability of our nation and to the protection of U.S. interests around the world.

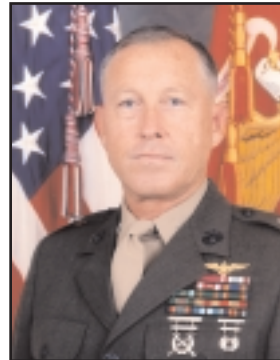
Each and every American benefits daily, in numerous ways, from the work of civilian employees. It is these dedicated public servants who issue Social Security checks, ensure the safety of food and medicine, investigate possible cures for diseases, promote the safety of our highways and air travel and lead the fight against illicit drug trafficking. Civilian employees also provide vital support to the members of our armed forces and, in doing so, help to guarantee our national security and military preparedness.

As MCB Hawaii moves through the A-76 commercial activities and privatization studies, and negotiates the questions of how to make ourselves more efficient and more effective, the contributions of our civilian employees shine a bright, inspiring light ahead. It is through their dedicated efforts that we have come this far, and we will continue to maintain the quality we now enjoy and hold the bar high for those who follow.

This week we express both our pride in public service and our appreciation for all those men and women who serve their fellow Americans as civilian employees. On behalf of all of us from MCB Hawaii, I send our personal thanks to those "civilian Marines" who strive every day to make MCB Hawaii a better place to live and work. We honor you this week; we treasure your contributions all year round.

I encourage activities to allow time for their civilian employees to attend the luncheon. I look forward to seeing you there and meeting your families.

R.E. PARKER JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL, USMC
COMMANDING GENERAL, MCB HAWAII



Brig. Gen. Parker

VP-4 Sailor competes for 'Pacific Fleet Sailor of the Year' title

Navy LT. Mark Brummett
VP-4 Public Affairs

A Patrol Squadron Four Sailor, Petty Officer 1st Class Gregory Dane Hill was selected as Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Forces Pacific Sailor of the Year. The selection field was comprised of Sailors from eight P-3 Orion squadrons in the Pacific Theater, encompassing MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash.

Hill represented not only VP-4 and ComPatReconForPac, but also Maritime Patrol Aviation at the Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet Sea Sailor of the Year ceremony held in San Diego, Calif. March 2. Hill was one of three finalists, representing their respective backgrounds within Patrol and

Reconnaissance, Electronic Attack, and Carrier operations.

The awardees' achievements were recognized during a week of festivities set aside for them and their families. The week included a sunset dinner at the Beach Café on Coronado Island, a trip to the world famous San Diego Zoo, and a tour of the aircraft carrier USS Constellation (CV 64).

Along with his wife Gayle, Hill had a few other people cheering for him in San Diego. Skinny Dragon Executive Officer Cmdr. Doug Yancey and Command Master Chief Mo Radke were also able to make the journey to the mainland in support of one of their own.

Radke summed up Hill's accomplishments by saying, "The guy works hard doing things right, and works even harder doing the right thing." This philosophy is evident

throughout the entire squadron as Hill and all the Skinny Dragons were awarded the Battle "E" award for their outstanding operational performance during calendar year 2000.

At the conclusion of the award ceremony, it was reiterated that all the finalists were winners. With a selection process that began with more than 25,000 Sailors, it's easy to see how that's true. Commander Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet Vice Adm. John Nathan's deputy awarded each finalist the Navy Commendation Medal for their outstanding achievements.

Although not selected, Hill enjoyed his visit to San Diego and the award festivities. "It was a great experience to be a part of. Just the opportunity to see the other aspects of the Navy was a thrill in itself."

Recognition as Sailor of the Year



Petty Officer 3rd Class Blake Metcalf

Petty Officer 1st Class Dane Hill, an acoustic sensor operator with VP-4, was selected as the ComPatReconForPac Sailor of the Year.

validates a year of hard work, dedication, time and self-sacrifice an individual has given to the Navy and his/her fellow Sailors, but one of the most often overlooked as-

pects are the new friendships formed.

"It was an eye opening experi-

See SAILOR, A-11

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

ATTENTION, MILITARY SPOUSES

Which of you would like to attend the Military Spouse Reception at I‘olani Palace on May 21, 2001 — for FREE?

This event, one of several sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii during Hawaii Military Appreciation Week, goes 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and will include docent tours and lunch. Attendees are asked to wear aloha attire. Be among the first 15 spouses to call the Public Affairs Office (257-8840, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday - Friday) to reserve your seat (one seat per call.) Sorry, no infants or children are allowed to attend.

This treat is just for YOU! Call now, and plan to enjoy a visit to this historic Hawaiian show-place!

CIVILIAN APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Anderson Mess Hall aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay will host a civilian employee appreciation luncheon May 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The luncheon is to honor the contributions made to MCB Hawaii by its civilian employees. All civilian employees and their family members are welcome.

The meal prices will be \$3.20 or \$2.65 for civilian employees who are married to E-4s and below.

RECON MARINES WANTED

Currently 4th Force Reconnaissance Co. aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is in search of Marines to fill its ranks.

Marines of all military occupational specialties are welcome, but must be willing to change their current MOS to one in the infantry or intelligence occupational fields.

Any Marines (enlisted or officer) leaving active duty status and desiring to enter the reserves should contact Staff Sgt. Gerald Rohn at 257-2758 or 257-1077, ext. 221.

JAPANESE WIVES CLUB

The Japanese Wives club meets once a month at the Armed Services YMCA aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. For more information, call Hiroko Hagen at 239-2308.

WINDWARD HALF-MARATHON

The Windward Marathon Association presents the Windward Half-Marathon May 20.

This event is comprised of four races: a 13.1-mile half-marathon, which begins at 6 a.m., a 5K, which begins at 6:30 a.m., 400-yard race for 6-8-year-olds, which begins at 8 a.m. and a 100-yard race for 3-5-year-olds, which begins at 8:15 a.m. Entry fee for entering the 400 and 100 yard races is \$10 each; \$13 for 5K entrants, and \$20 for the half-marathon. Entries must be post-marked by May 13 — a \$5 late fee will be added thereafter.

For more information, contact 1st Sgt. Patrick Dougherty at 257-5900.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Base Emergency 257-9111
MPD 257-7114
Crisis Hotline 521-4555

Hawaii MARINE

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The Hawaii Marine is an unofficial newspaper published every Thursday by RFD Publications, Inc., 45-525 Luluku Road, Kaneohe, HI 96744, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Marine Corps under exclusive contract to the U.S. Marine Corps. This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services.

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Fax: 257-2511, Phone: 257-8840

Secretary of Defense’s Military Spouse Appreciation Day Message

I am pleased to designate Friday as military spouse day. Each year, since 1984, the services have set aside a special day to recognize the countless contributions of military spouses.

Our military spouses are often called upon to make sacrifices as they face the unique challenges of military life. These women and men must cope with deployments, family separations and frequent moves, all of which require special skills and commitment.

Throughout our nation’s history, military spouses have not only met these challenges, but their energy and dedication have helped our military communities to thrive. Their selfless contributions play a vital role in the stability of our servicemembers and our communities.

As we celebrate military spouse day, I offer my personal thanks to every military spouse for a job well done.

I encourage commanders to plan special recognition events on or around Friday to honor the many contributions of military spouses.

DONALD H. RUMSFELD
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE



Secretary Rumsfeld

MILITARY APPRECIATION WEEK EVENTS

Month of May
Military Month (discounted tickets for military at Atlantis Submarines, Sea Life Park, Waimea Falls Park and USS Missouri)

Saturday, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.
Military Night at Paradise Cove Luau

Tuesday, 10 a.m.
Armed Services YMCA “Five Star Salute” (ceremony at the Mayor’s Office; by invitation)

May 17, 6 p.m.
Opening Ceremony at USS Missouri Battleship Memorial, Ford Island

May 19, 7:30 a.m.
5th Annual 1stMAW/ASE Triathlon/Duathlon at MCB Hawaii K-Bay.
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
“A Capital Day Down Capitol Way” (free tours of historic buildings; downtown Honolulu) 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
“Living History Day” at Hawaii Army Museum, Ft. DeRussy (near Hale Koa Hotel, Honolulu) 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Combined Military Band Concert at Hawaii Theatre (1130 Bethel St., Honolulu)
MarForPac Band to host.
Seating: first-come, first-seated (doors open at 6:30; seats held only until 6:45)
Free tickets available (see

PACOM website for ticket info)
See note below for MCB Hawaii Public Affairs phone number to call for more info)
5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Military Night at the Polynesian Cultural Center

May 20, 6 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Windward Half-Marathon/5K Run (See MCBH News Briefs for more info)
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Family Sunday Island Style-Military Day at Bishop Museum
Free admission w/special coupons*; reduced cost tickets also available (see PACOM website for ticket information) Karaoke Finals Competition (noon - 2 p.m.)

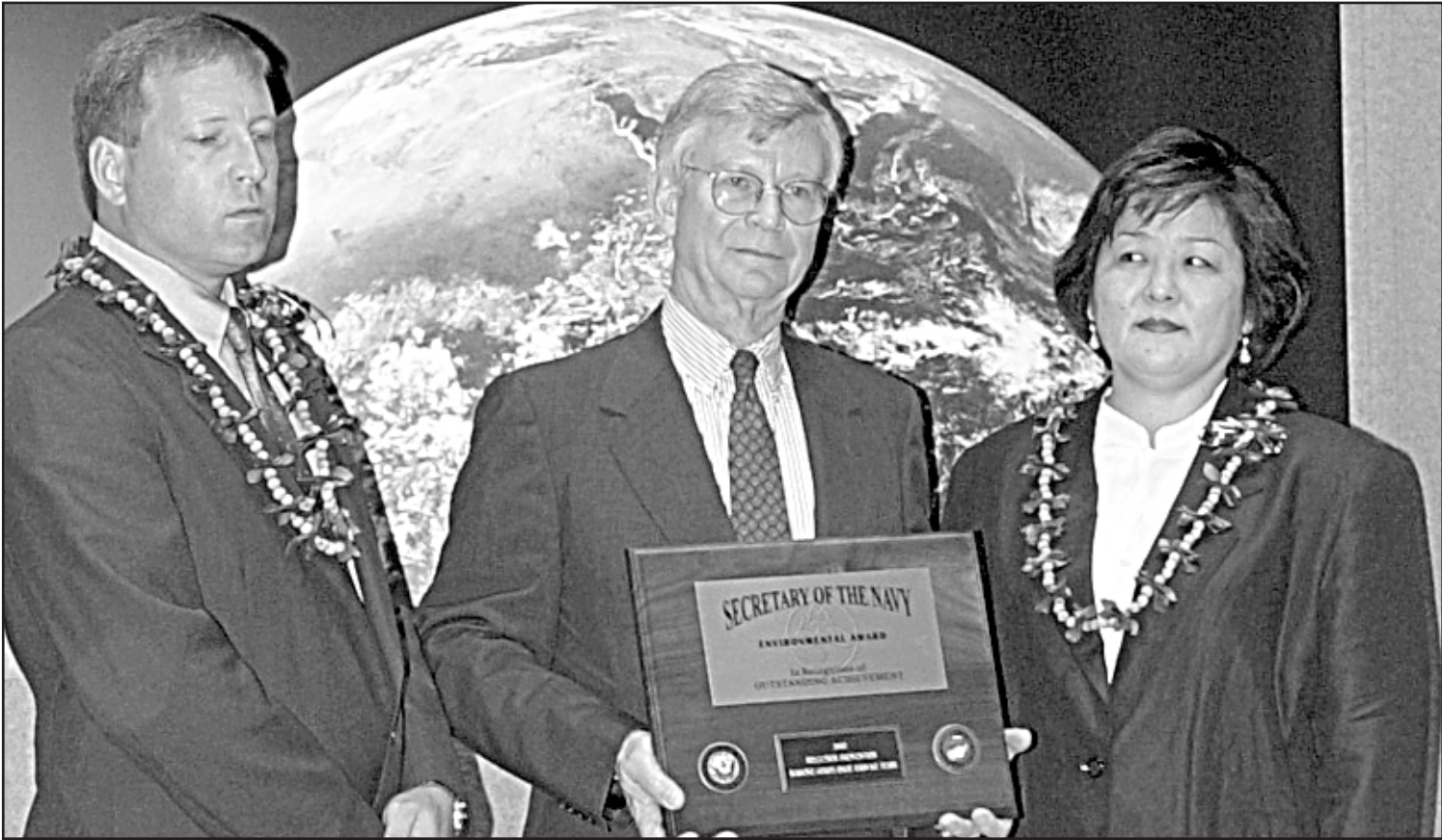
May 21, 5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Military Night at Hale Koa Luau Dinner Show

May 23, noon - 1:15 p.m.
Annual Recognition Luncheon, Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel

May 26
Military Day (at Border’s Books & Music, Ward Center & Waikale

* Coupons for Bishop Museum event are available at K-Bay and Camp Smith ITT offices.
Additional info on HMAW is available on the Web at
www.pacom.mil/staff/maw/index.html, or by calling MCB Hawaii PAO Community Relations, at 257-8840.

Environmentally honored



Pfc. Douglass Gilhooly

Robert B. Pirie, Jr., acting Secretary of the Navy, center, presents Gerald Schmitz, hazardous material manager with Marine Aviation Logistics Support Element, Kaneohe, and Carolyn Irvin, pollution prevention project manager with the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Environmental Department, with the Department of the Navy Pollution Prevention Award May 2 at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. During the same ceremony, June Cleghorn, K-Bay Environmental Department’s cultural resources manager, accepted the Department of the Navy Cultural Resources Management Award from Pirie.

Baseball great visits K-Bay commissary

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

Professional baseball legend, 3rd baseman, Darrel Evans, visited the MCB Hawaii commissary Sunday afternoon for an autograph session.

Evans’ visit was part of the 2001 Baseball Legends Pacific tour sponsored by the Pillsbury Company, H.J. Heinz Company, Special Markets, Welch’s and Snapple Beverage Group.

The goodwill tour is scheduled to visit eight states and Guam this month.

The two-time All-Star played for the Detroit Tigers, Atlanta Braves and San Francisco Giants during a 21-year career that started in 1968.

Known through the 1970’s as the premiere 3rd baseman, behind Mike Schmidt in the National League, Evans hit a total 414 home runs during his career. The autograph session at the commissary lasted an hour and a half, and young and old alike stood in line to get signatures, photographs and shake hands with the retired

baseball player.

Baseball fans waited patiently in line while Evans talked with his fans as he autographed photos, baseballs, baseball caps and banners.

“It’s nice to come to these bases and see the people. They sacrifice so much for our country,” said Evans. “People are always smiling at me, and the children are very polite.”

Evans took interest in the fans, asking them about where they were from, and who was their favorite baseball team or player.

“We’re just trying to get people to enjoy some of their hometown feelings during this tour,” said Evans. “We tend to forget what servicemembers and their families go through being stationed overseas.”

This is the second time the tour has visited servicemembers in the Pacific.

“Last year we went through Korea, Okinawa and Japan with baseball legends Vita Blue and Pat Zachry,” said Tom Harper, tour manager. “We like to bring a taste of America to the servicemembers serving overseas who don’t get the chance to meet



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

Breanna Ploneda, 7, gets an autographed picture from baseball legend Darrel Evans, during an autograph session at the base commissary on Sunday.

sports legends.”

For Evans, visiting a Marine base brought back fond memories of when he served in the Marine Corps as a reservist for six years.

Evans went to boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, and credits his success in the major leagues to his tough Marine Corps training.

“I went to boot camp at 180 pounds and left there at around 210,” remembered Evans. “That extra weight helped me later in my career.”

Not many of today’s

younger Marines know that Evans was on first base when Hank Aaron hit his historic 714th home run, or that he played for the Braves with former Marine and baseball great Dusty Baker, but that doesn’t matter to Evans.

He will never forget what the Corps has done for him, or the sacrifices Marines and their families endure to serve their country.

Evans left MCB Hawaii saying, “I belong to two great families; professional baseball and the Marine Corps.”



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

Under the instruction of the onlooking wives, Pfc. Earl D. Plumlee, an assaultman gunner, 1/3, pulls an ammunition can across a board towards Lance Cpl. Anthony L. Lappe, a mortarman, 1/3, and Lance Cpl. Alexander N. Yadlokzky III, 1/3, at the Leadership Reaction Course at the Boondocker Training Area May 3 during 1/3's Jane Wayne Day. The Marines had to negotiate the obstacle only on the instruction from the women.

1/3 holds 'Jayne Wayne Day' for unit wives

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

More than 20 Marine wives from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment got a chance to see what their husbands do for a living, May 3, during Jane Wayne Day.

The event was set up to educate the wives about the work conditions and the type of work environment their Marine husbands endure everyday, according to Sgt. Maj. Robert L. Crawford, sergeant major of 1/3.

Static displays, a meal-ready-to-eat lunch, a live-fire demonstration and a visit to 1/3's command offices highlighted the day dedicated to showing the spouses what the Marines' mission entails.

To begin Jane Wayne Day, the wives were taken to the Boondocker Training Area to see Marines from 1/3 demonstrate the use of the rappelling tower and obstacle course, as well as a static display of weapons and equipment.

A CH-53E helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 was on display as well, and the wives were allowed to sit in the pilot seats and ask crew members questions.

After the demonstrations were complete, the spouses were taken to 1/3's command offices to see the command and logistics side of the battalion.

A question and answer period concluded the visit to 1/3's command center, and the ladies were off to the rifle range for an MRE lunch and a live-fire demonstration. Once at the range, Marines set up a general-purpose tent as a makeshift cafeteria complete with table and chairs, so the wives could enjoy their lunch.

As their husbands helped to show them how to heat the MREs, the ladies talked amongst each other about what

they had seen and experienced throughout the day. After finishing their lunch, the ladies were asked to sit in the observation bleachers for the final demonstration of day.

Marines kicked off a tactical assault by rappelling from two CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters directly behind the bleachers where the Jayne Wayners were seated.

While the Marines moved down range towards their objective, a dummy radar site, Capt. Stuart L. Lankford, Bravo Co. commander, explained what the Marines were doing.

"Grunts generally have a reputation as knuckle-dragging idiots," said Lankford. "But ladies, let me tell you your husbands know what they are doing."

"You actually have to be smart to do this job," he said.

Once the Marines reached the objective, they quickly attached claymores to the radar site and retreated to a safe distance before setting them off.

With the mission completed, the Marines retrograded to their landing zone and waited for the helicopters to come and pick them up. As the Marines passed the observation bleachers, the wives applauded them and cheered for a job well done.

The departure of the helicopters signaled the end of the demonstration and the end of Jane Wayne day for the wives of 1/3. For many of the wives who participated in Jane Wayne day, it was a great experience to see and understand what their husbands go through in training, exercise and combat.

"This has given the wives an idea of what their husbands do for a living," said Karen Etnyre, a Marine spouse. "We know what they do, but here we get to see it up close and personal. We see it on the television and in the newspapers, but this is a realistic view of what they do."



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

1st Sgt. Thomas E. Fitzgerald, Bravo Co. first sergeant, explains the contents of an MRE to his wife, Pattie during 1/3's Jane Wayne Day.

Hale Koa Hotel to host 'Mother's Day dining' event

Kelly Bortles
Hale Koa Hotel

Show Mom she's special with sumptuous Mother's Day dining at the Hale Koa Hotel Sunday. Whether you choose the Mother's Day Dinner Buffet, the special menu in Bibas Restaurant, or a fine dining experience in the Hale Koa Room, Mom will celebrate her special day with a memorable meal in beautiful surroundings.

An all-you-can-eat Mother's Day Dinner Buffet, with seatings from 5 to 7:30 p.m., will be held in the Banyan Tree Room. Roast baron of beef with sauteed seafood in white wine sauce, cinnamon-roasted chicken breast, roasted garlic mashed potatoes, saffron rice, a variety of salads, house-marinated salmon, deviled eggs, sausages, cheeses and other delectable dishes will be available in addition to a lavish dessert table. Reservations are highly recommended for the dinner buffet. Cost is \$19.25 per person, plus 10 percent gratuity. Children

ages 4-11 are \$11.95 each, plus 10 percent gratuity.

Another delicious buffet, in the family style Koko Café, offers roast baron of beef, marinated grilled baby lamb chops, seared assorted seafood in lobster sauce, with steamed broccoli, cauliflower and carrots, mashed potatoes, and french fries in addition to an array of wonderful desserts. Served from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. the buffet at the Koko Café is priced at \$14.95 for adults and \$9.95 for children ages 4-11. Reservations are not required.

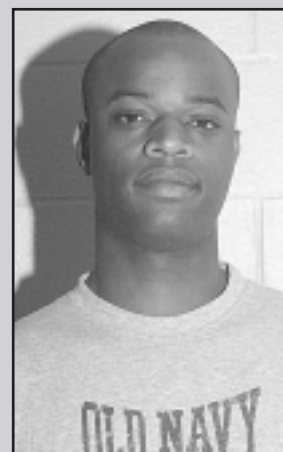
A special dinner menu, with no reservations required, will be served from 5 to 9 p.m. in Biba's open air restaurant. Enjoy marinated, grilled top sirloin steak paired with broiled slipper lobster and melted butter accompanied by your choice of steamed rice, mashed potatoes, or french fries. The menu includes vegetable of the day, small salad bar and tropical cheesecake for dessert for only \$16.50 ala carte, or \$19.50 complete, per person.

Celebrate early and escape the holiday crowds, by reserving an intimate table at the Hale Koa Room on Friday or Saturday. The hotel's signature restaurant presents its regular evening menu, featuring such favorites as prime rib roast in a three peppercorn crust, rack of lamb provencale and herb-seared red snapper. Pair these with any fine wine selection, each available by the glass. After dinner, treat Mom to the double chocolate cheesecake, coconut cream meringue pie, or Grand Marnier soufflé. Dinner in the Hale Koa Room is served from 6 p.m.

To make reservations for the Dinner Buffet or the Hale Koa Room, call 955-0555 ext. 546. As an Armed Forces Recreation Center, the Hale Koa Hotel welcomes active duty and retired military, Reserve and National Guard members, DoD civilian employees, family members and sponsored guests. The Hale Koa is located at 2055 Kalia Road. Ample parking is available in the hotel's parking garage.

WORD ON THE STREET

What are you doing for your mother on Mother's Day?



"I don't celebrate a specific day as Mother's Day. I believe everyday is Mother's Day."

Sgt. Oyango Ali Childs
Food Service Specialist
H&S Co., 3/3

"I am sending her flowers and a card and calling home."

Staff Sgt. Livingston D. Hodges
MCB Hawaii
Assignments Chief
HQ Bn., MCB Hawaii

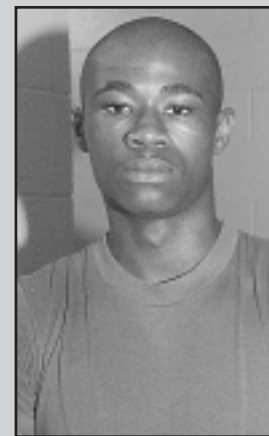


"I am sending her some roses, a card and having my brother and sister take her out to eat."

Lance Cpl. Ilario G. Castro
Bulk Fuels Specialist
HQ Bn., MCB Hawaii

"I sent her a lot of flowers."

Lance Cpl. Paul Zamudio
Administrative Clerk
HQ Bn., MCB Hawaii

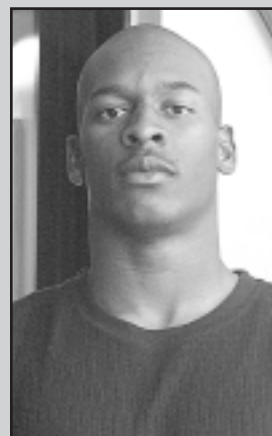


"I am going to send her a cellular phone so I can call her every day."

Pfc. Vincent L. Richardson
Food Service Specialist
H&S Co., 3/3

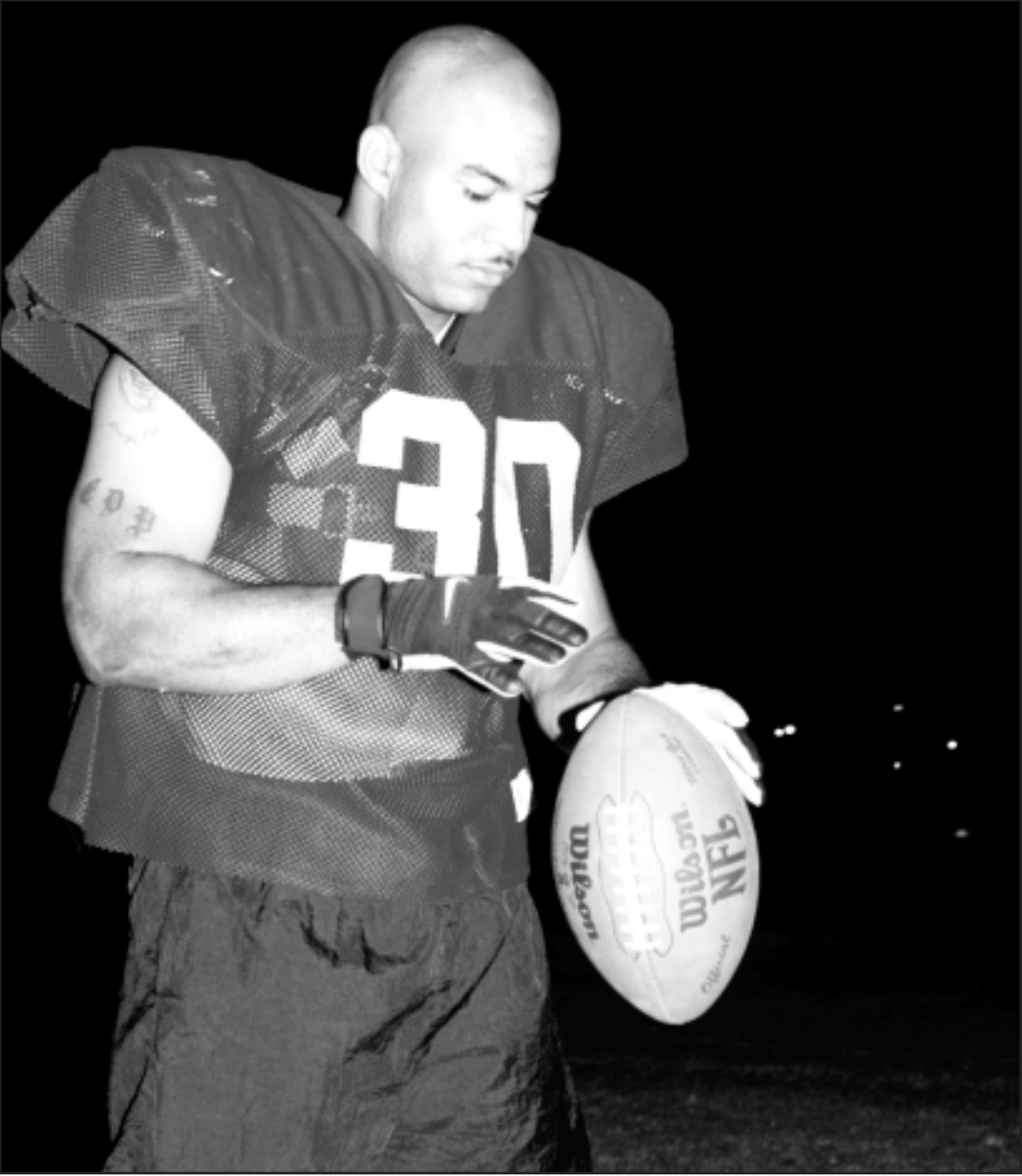
"I am going to fly my mom to Hawaii and show her the most beautiful scenery I have seen in my entire life."

Pfc. King Solomon L. Flowers
Food Service Specialist
H&S Co., 3/3





Pinson (number 30), a Marine and the Warriors’ tailback, weaves through a defense during a scrimmage at a Warriors Practice.



Pinson, a Marine and the Warriors’ tailback, warms up his hands by juggling a football between them.

Marines take football team to victory

Story and photos by
Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible
Combat Correspondent

The quarterback drops back from the center and eyes the field looking for an open reciever.

He thinks he sees one and lets the ball fly. The free safety sees the ball leave the quarterback’s hand and tracks it across the field as he runs toward its intended target with a full head of steam. He leaps in front of the reciever and snatches the ball out of the air.

Sure, any talented free safety could have made this interception, but this free safety is a Marine.

Three Marines call the Hawaiian Warriors, a semi-professional football team in the Hawaiian Football League, their team.

“I heard through word of mouth that there was a team I could play for so I decided to give it a shot,” said Cory D. Pinson, a Marine and the Warriors’ running back.

The military has come out in force to showcase their skills to the football viewing public throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

“In my 14 years of coaching this team, this is the most military we have had play,” said John Frederick, the team’s coach, commenting on the number of Army, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard personnel playing.

During the opening game of the season, the U.S. Armed Forces Dedication Bowl Game, these Marines were in the starting lineup. Pinson, a tailback, rushed for 88 yards on 12 carries, averaging over seven yards per carry, and Duke McDonald, a free safety, recorded an interception and assisted in several tackles in the Warriors 28-6 victory over

the Windward Hawks. The third Marine, Josh Powers, a wide receiver, was unable to play Saturday due to late registration and lack of gear.

“Both Pinson and McDonald had a very positive impact on the team with their ballplaying ability in Saturday’s game,” said Frederick. “They could both be playing at the next level, be it arena football, the Canadian Football League or the National Football League Europe.”

The players were also satisfied with their skills during the game, but were quick to concede that there is always

room for improvement.

“I was happy with my game, but it could get better,” said Pinson. “For being the first game of the season, I wasn’t displeased.”

The Warriors play against teams throughout the Hawaiian Islands as part of the North American Football League, and are currently the third ranked team in the nation.

The Warriors successful past looks as though it will only be augmented by the addition of these dedicated Marines who look to do nothing more than play ball to the best of their ability.



Powers, a Marine and one of the Warriors’ wide receivers, warms up with sprints at a practice in Pearl City.

Help Wanted: DoD calls military retirees to act as JROTC instructors

Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Uncle Sam needs you. Again. This time, he’s seeking military men and women to instruct high school Junior ROTC students.

DoD needs retired military officers and NCOs to teach citizenship and leadership, while instilling self-esteem, teamwork and discipline. Pentagon officials say there will be about 1,200 openings over the next three years.

By fiscal 2005, the program will employ about 7,000 instructors, according to Navy Cmdr. Yvette BrownWahler, director for JROTC in DoD’s Accession Policy Office at the Pentagon. In the next few years the services could struggle to find qualified instructors to fill new vacancies created by the expansion of the JROTC program, she said.

More than 450,000 students participate in JROTC units at 2,900 high schools across the country. Each unit with up to 150 students has two instructors, and the service assigns a third instructor to units with more than 150 cadets. DoD recently approved funding over the next five years to raise the total number of units to 3,500, the maximum authorized by Congress in 1992. At present, more than 600 schools are on service waiting lists for JROTC units.

“Expansion — even beyond 3,500 — is extremely important because we want to be able to reach out to America’s youth,” BrownWahler said. “As the president says, ‘No child should be left behind,’ and there are a lot of high school students out there who really want something different.”

JROTC offers students an alternative lifestyle, BrownWahler said.

“Parents will come up and say to us, ‘This program changed my daughter’s life. She was into drugs and alcohol, on her way prob-

ably to jail. In one year, her whole life has turned around.’

“We hear that kind of thing all the time,” the commander said. “We hear it from the faculty, from guidance counselors and even the instructors themselves.”

The services are now increasing the total number of JROTC units incrementally, BrownWahler said. The Army is adding 50 units per year to reach a total of 1,645 units. The Marine Corps is adding 10 units per year to reach 260. The Air Force has slated funding for about 50 more units per year to reach a total of 945.

“The Navy, because they received additional funding from Congress last year, is opening 75 units this year and 25 units next year,” she noted. The Navy objective is to reach 700 units.

DoD officials aim to ensure fair and equitable unit distribution. She said the Southeast and Texas have many units, while coverage in the Northeast is spottier.

Opening JROTC units in inner-city and rural schools is often difficult, because it’s hard to find instructors willing to work in them, she noted. DoD has launched legislative initiatives to provide monetary bonuses to attract instructors for those areas.

“One instructor only made it three months,” BrownWahler recalled. “He just couldn’t handle the pressure any more. He

wanted to stay for the kids, but the rest of the school was just kind of falling apart.

“It’s difficult, too,” she said. “In some places like Philadelphia and Chicago, instructors are required to live within the city limits. Sometimes that’s a financial struggle for them.”

For the military retirees who become instructors, BrownWahler said, JROTC is a chance to make a difference in their communities.

During a recent drill competition in Pensacola, Fla., she said, JROTC instructors “beamed” as they watched youth of all backgrounds “all marching together and all displaying the same sort of pride at one time. They take that back to their community.”

Some instructors, however, find teaching JROTC requires an adjustment. “It’s very difficult when you’ve been working with adults most of your active duty life and then all of a sudden you’re working with 14-, 15- and 16-year-olds, trying to boost them beyond their perceived limits.

“Sometimes they only get the students one hour out of every day and maybe some time in the afternoon,” she said. “It’s really critical that during that one hour, they show them that life can be different from what they’ve seen so far.”

JROTC gives high school students “something to look forward to, to look up to, to

work toward. We try to instill in these young people, the same American values that service men and women have,” said Brown Wahler.

Since 1964, each service branch has offered a JROTC program that includes classroom instruction and one to two weeks of summer training at a military base.

“Instructors also do a lot of things to help kids with academic problems,” she said. “They’re able to transcend the curriculum to fit the students’ needs.”

Retired active duty officers and enlisted personnel are eligible to apply, she said. There are no age limits. Processing time can range from six months to a year. People may apply while they are still on active duty.

“The service secretaries can hire O-4s to O-10s and E-6s to E-9s,” BrownWahler said. “Sometimes they take retired E-5s. I’ve met some instructors who have been doing this for 20 years.”

Each service has about a seven- to 10-day instructor training program. Once trained and certified by the service, it’s up to school districts to actually hire JROTC instructors. Once hired, instructors continue to receive their military retired pay. The service branch and school district then split the difference that returns the instructors’ pay back to active duty levels.

“If your pay was \$60,000 on active duty, for example,” BrownWahler said, “\$30,000 would come from your retired pay. The other \$30,000 would be paid half by the service and half by the school district.”

For more information on JROTC instructor opportunities, go to DoD’s Transportal Web site at www.dodtransportal.org. Then go to Internet Career Links and then to Specialized Job Search Links, where the four service branches are listed. Or, go to the service Websites and type in “JROTC” as the search word.

“... ‘*This program changed my daughter’s life. She was into drugs and alcohol, on her way probably to jail. In one year, her whole life has turned around’ ... we hear that kind of thing all the time.*”

Cmdr. Yvette Brown Wahler, JROTC Director, Pentagon

Defense Department testing newer household goods shipment programs

Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Uprooting a family and moving is one of those challenging life transitions that cause emotional strain, drain one’s energy and create all kinds of highs and lows.

In its quest to ease the pain, DoD is testing the Full Service Move Project at 23 military installations across the country. It’s all about bettering the quality of life of servicemembers and their families by finding ways to improve household goods shipments and to minimize stress, DoD officials said.

“I think this program is going to do a lot of good for our servicemembers and their families,” said project manager Cullen Hutchinson. “Moving is very stressful. I’ve seen situations which bring tears to my eyes when I talk about how some service members have been treated during their move.

“We’re the industry’s largest customer and we should get a high-quality move. We should be treated as their very best customer,” he noted. “Our relationship with industry used to be very adversarial, but I think we’ve developed a very good relationship in the last couple of years. We’ve worked togeth-

er and I think they’re willing to work with us to get that level of service. But it will not be easy or cheap.”

DoD and the rest of government used to vie for the cheapest bids for services, but that has changed over the years, Hutchinson said. “Cost is not our only consideration. Now, we talk ‘best value,’” he said. That means performance counts.

The Military Traffic Management Command moves more than 613,000 shipments each year at a cost of about \$1.7 billion. But it does so using a 40-something-year-old process that’s burdened by excessive regulation, poor performance, and complicated, time-consuming processes, Hutchinson said.

Nearly 35 percent of shipments suffer loss or damage at a cost of about \$100 million. Only \$60 million is recouped.

DoD’s Full Service Move Project is a partnership of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military services, Coast Guard, U.S. Transportation Command, Army Communication and Electronics Command Acquisition Center and the household goods moving, freight forwarding and relocation management industries.

FSMP incorporates many

of the lessons learned from two other tests, the ongoing Military Traffic Management Command’s Re-engineered Personal Property Program and the recently ended Navy Service Member Arranged Move, or SAM.

The DoD project also adapted the lessons of a two-year test at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., that ended in January 2001 when FSMP absorbed it. The Georgia test moved more than 3,500 shipments, including all outbound moves of household goods from Hunter to worldwide destinations.

In the Hunter personal property pilot, one company, Cendant Mobility Corp., was responsible for all aspects of the move. The company offered a toll-free telephone contact, in-transit visibility, full replacement value coverage, direct claims settlement by the move manager and on-

time performance provisions.

“We’ve incorporated much of that into the Full Service Move Project,” Hutchinson said.

The reason for the various pilots is to allow DoD to test different ways of handling household goods and relocation services to see which is best for everyone. Integrating best commercial practices is one of the main objectives of all the pilots, Hutchinson said.

The U.S. Transportation Command is tasked with reviewing and analyzing the three pilot programs. Upon completion of the analysis the command and the military services will coordinate recommendations to the secretary of defense on actions needed to improve DoD personal property moves.

Hutchinson said FSMP launched Jan. 8 at Minot Air



Force Base, N.D., and will impact only a small portion of the DoD population — about 45,000 shipments, or 8 percent of the DoD moving volume. The other 22 sites added since are in the Washington National Capital Region, including the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.; and all DoD locations in Georgia except Warner-Robins Air Force Base. All the military services, including the Coast Guard, are represented.

The project handles all outbound shipments from the 23 sites. “We have a few exceptions to our program,” Hutchinson noted. “We don’t do nonpermanent storage, local moves or moves to certain areas overseas.”

FSMP provides service members with a single point of contact throughout their move. That manager assesses the customer’s household goods needs and coordinates and arranges those requirements with a mover. The move manager assists in the claims process if property is damaged or missing.

Other key features of the project include:

- Full replacement value protection rather than depreciated value for lost or damaged household goods up to a maximum of \$75,000.
- Claim settled and check in hand within 45 days.

- Quick claims settlement option for claims under \$500.
- Direct claims processing.
- Guaranteed arrival within a two-hour window for packing, pickup and delivery.
- Binding estimates for excess costs.
- A toll-free telephone number to contact move managers.
- Voluntary, optional relocation services, such as referrals for home selling and buying.
- Carriers are selected by a process emphasizing best value rather than lowest cost.

The MTMC pilot program moves half of all outbound shipments from the Carolinas and Florida. “They, too, have some exceptions,” Hutchinson noted. “They don’t do nonpermanent storage, local moves and don’t handle civilian moves.”

Saying the price tag proved too high, the Navy recently pulled the plug on its SAM test. A kind of do-it-yourself move, it allowed sailors to select their mover from a list provided by their transportation office. SAM was available in Norfolk, Va.; Groton, Conn.; Puget Sound-Whidbey Island, Wash.; and San Diego to anywhere else in the continental United States.

Tips may help protect valuables during shipment

Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — You watch “Antiques Roadshow” this fall and learn a chifforobe just like your great-grandmother’s is worth \$5,000. Dang! If you’d known that you’d have had insurance and squawked more when those butterfingers banged up yours during your summer move.

Permanent-change-of-station moves mean stress, anxiety and problems even when you don’t own high-value treasures. But when you do, paying attention to some common sense dos and don’ts may save you grief.

Carriers and the government assume

no liability for such high-value items as watches, jewelry, cash, stocks, bonds, coin and stamp collections, antiques, bills, deeds, precious metals or irreplaceable sentimental items such as photo albums. Carry these valuables with you, Military Traffic Management Command officials advise. Don’t ship them as household goods, and don’t leave them in dresser drawers or lying around while movers pack.

- Get professional appraisals for expensive, valuable items such as artwork, collectibles and heirlooms. Obtain supplemental insurance for these valuables during the move. Standard insurance carried by most movers pays claims by the pound, not

market value. The government will not pay for appraisals or extra insurance, but consider the cost a wise hedge against loss or damage.

- Videotape or take close-up photos of all your belongings, paying extra attention to the condition of your furniture and your expensive and valuable items. Inventory records like this will help you document any losses and damage you may incur in the move.
- Record serial numbers of electronic equipment.
- Movers are supposed to document furniture condition on their inventory record sheets. Make sure you confirm

See TMO, A-11

TRICARE begins new system for prescription co-payments

Karl Kiyokawa
Queen’s Health Care Plan

As of April 1, all TRICARE beneficiaries now have a new, simplified co-payment structure for prescription medications purchased at retail network pharmacies, the National Mail Order Pharmacy or non-network pharmacies.

Copayments at retail network pharmacies will be \$3 for up to a 30-day supply of a generic prescription drug and \$9 for up to a 30-day supply of a brand name prescription drug.

Copayments at the National Mail Order Pharmacy will be \$3 for up to a 90-day supply of a generic prescription drug and \$9 for up to a 90-day supply of a brand name prescription drug.

For prescriptions filled in non-network pharmacies, TRICARE Prime members will have a 50 percent cost share after meeting the point-of-service deductible, and all others will have copayments of either 20 percent or \$9, whichever is greater after they have met the TRICARE annual deductible.

As always, if you have other health insurance, TRICARE will be the secondary payer. TRICARE requires generic drug substitution when an equivalent generic drug is available for your prescription.

TRICARE beneficiaries

have the following options for their prescription drug needs:

- Military Treatment Facility Pharmacies*
Your most cost-effective choice, medications continue to be available at no charge through MTF pharmacies (check with your local MTF to ensure your prescription is on the MTF formulary).
- National Mail Order Pharmacy*
For prescriptions taken regularly, NMOP offers a convenient prescription-by-mail option. The NMOP is more cost effective than a retail pharmacy.
- To learn more about how to use NMOP, call 1-800-903-4680. This option is not available for beneficiaries who have health insurance in addition to TRICARE.
- TRICARE Network Pharmacies*

If you need a prescription filled immediately, visit one of the TRICARE network pharmacies. Simply present the pharmacist with your written prescription and your military ID card. If you have other health insurance, your other policy must be used first to cover any costs.

You might be eligible for full or partial reimbursement

from TRICARE for out-of-pocket costs greater than the TRICARE network copayment.

To obtain a list of TRICARE network pharmacies, visit www.healthnetfederalservices.com, www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/retail_network.htm, or contact your local TRICARE Service Center.

Non-Network Pharmacies

This is the most expensive option for beneficiaries and should be considered the option of last resort. In most cases, you must pay the full retail price at the pharmacy and then file a claim for reimbursement.

Claim forms can be obtained from your nearest TSC or Beneficiary Service Office, by mail from TRICARE Management



Activity, 16401 E. Centretech Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011-9043 or the forms can be downloaded at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/claims/Dd2642.pdf>.

For additional information about the new drug copayments, you may: access the TRICARE Management Activity web site at www.tricare.osd.mil Visit your local TRICARE Service Center.

===== EVERY CLIME AND PLACE =====

24th MEU Marine mothers discover internet lifeline during sons’, daughters’ deployments

Sgt. Kevin Dolloson
24th MEU Public Affairs

ABOARD USS KEARSARGE — While

some deployment stories focus on the separation anxiety that families go through as a son or daughter leaves the comforts of home, very few focus on what some family members do to relieve that anxiety

Several mothers of Marines of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) (24th MEU (SOC)) have discovered a Marine moms Internet chat room, or “Marine Moms Online” (MMO).

MMO has been in existence since Spring 1996, when a mom began to experience the worry and fear, along with the pride and devotion, of her son leaving home and joining the Marine Corps. Sonja’s son, David, joined the Marine Corps in February 1996 and she desired to share her pride and anxiety with others who understood her feelings.

After searching military websites for chat rooms and message boards, Sonja made contact with several other moms in Spring 1997. One e-mail or instant message led to another, and MMO officially debuted in July 1997.

The original mission of MMO was to provide support for the parents of Marines by offering encouragement and sharing experiences, as well as creating an

outlet to air concerns. An increase in membership led to more creativity and innovative ideas.

Now MMO writes to the Marine sons and daughters of group members, offers support to Marines who have little family support and sends letters to recruits in need of encouragement while in boot camp.

“I just knew how much we could all benefit from coming together,” said Sonja as quoted on the MMO website. “We started with about seven moms that first month, and the rest is history, for which I take no credit. I just stand amazed at the talent and creativity, energy and enthusiasm, but especially the love and compassion I find among the MMO participants.”

The 24th MEU (SOC) recently left the United States to begin its six-month deployment in the Mediterranean Sea, and a few of the 2,200 Marines aboard the Amphibious Ready Group ships have moms who are members of MMO.

MMO has been, and still is, somewhat of a lifeline for moms of Marines who have recently entered boot camp, or are on deployment. Additionally, MMO does not discriminate in its membership policy. It’s open to dads, wives, girlfriends, fiancées, brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles and even active duty and retired Marines. The guest book even has a

few messages from Navy personnel.

The 24th MEU (SOC) moms explain best what MMO is for them.

“I became a [Marine Mom Online] through my son,” said Shari Shields, LCpl. David Shields’ mom. “The support we give each other is great. Plus all the questions we have, have been answered either by a former Marine, or a long-time member who has been through it all and that just puts my mind at peace knowing that, as parents, we don’t have to go through this separation by ourselves.”

“In November 1999, my son left for Parris Island,” explained Patricia Ashburn, Lance Cpl. Joseph Ashburn’s mom. “I saw an article in a magazine in January 2000 and logged on to the MMO website and became a member. What I found was a wealth of information and lots of caring people who could answer all my questions. These folks understood how I felt about my youngest of four children joining the Marines. I was feeling so proud of Joe, but very worried too. Now, I’m one of the “salty” moms who have lots of information to give.”

“I sure wish MMO was around when my first Marine was in boot camp,” said Carmen Houston, Sgt. Matthew Houston’s mom. “If you get down or discouraged, the MMO is there to boost you up, and if your



Sgt. Kevin Dolloson

Sergeant Matthew Houston, an avionics technician with HMM-266, logs on to the MMO website during his deployment.

Marine gets down or discouraged, they’re there for that too.”

According to Carmen, Marine Moms Online now has about 1500 members and is prepared to deal with whatever tragedy may strike a family.

“The biggest issue we have right now is a mom in California whose son was killed last year, and now she has another son who’s battling cancer,” added Carmen.

“You wouldn’t believe what the moms in California are doing for that family,” she said. “We share joys and sorrows, as well as e-mail hugs.”

Marine Moms have grown so big that they have the ability to help whenever they’re close enough to offer a hand.

“Lots of Marine Moms Online help Marines stationed in their areas,” added Patricia. “We give rides to and from airports and base, deliver birthday surprises and more. Monetary compensation is never expected. All that is asked is that the recipient do a favor for another

Marine when they can.”

“I became a Marine Mom Online the day my son left for boot camp,” said Lori Allen, Lance Cpl. Ian Allen’s mom. “Ian’s recruiter told me about a website that has a schedule of what happens at boot camp and as I was perusing the Internet, I found a link to Marine Moms Online.”

“This group has been just wonderful,” added Lori. “When I was a new [Marine Mom], they helped me with all the acronyms Marines use and they shared stories about their sons and daughters that were similar to what I was going through with Ian. They gave advice on what to send to boot camp and specific information on graduation.”

Darlene Bakos, Lance Cpl. Adam Bakos’ mom, is the mom who began the 24th MEU (SOC) Marine Moms Online “connection” when she phoned the MEU’s Public Affairs office to get a mailing address for the ship. Ever since then, Marine Moms have been coming from all walks of life to share

their stories, so that other moms may have solace. For many of the mothers the separation anxiety begins immediately as their sons or daughters enter boot camp and it’s quite similar to what their children are feeling.

“The effect of [MMO] in boot camp is great,” exclaimed Lance Cpl. Adam Bakos, Battalion Landing Team 2/8 (BLT 2/8), Infantryman, from Batavia, N.Y. “I was curious at first when I started receiving 12 letters a day, but it was nice to hear from people who care. I had so many letters I could fill up a laundry basket with them.”

“Also, there are people that you meet and they let you stay in their homes,” added Bakos. “I think the fact that they’re Marines, or Marine affiliated, just brings us all closer together.”

Sgt. Matthew Houston, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 266, Aviation Electrician, from Pensacola, Fla., joined the Marine Corps

See MMO, A-9

MMO, From A-8

right out of high school and has grown to appreciate Marine Moms Online, because it wasn't around when he went through boot camp.

"It was hard my first couple of years," said Houston. "I had some pretty high phone bills, but now it's a lot easier with e-mail and Internet.

"I'm glad my mom is a part of MMO," he added. "I went home one time on leave and she told me about [MMO] and I thought it was a great thing for her. It's pretty cool how she finds out stuff faster than I do sometimes.

"They help each other out a lot. A Marine mom from California needed to get in touch with her son. He was stationed in Pensacola, but she didn't know where, and my mom found him for her."

Lance Cpl. Joseph Ashburn, Echo Battery 2/10, Fire Direction Controlman, from Baltimore, Md., echoes Houston.

"I like [Marine Moms Online] because I get a lot of information before anyone else does," said Ashburn. "I don't know how they do it, but the moms find out first.

"The letters in boot camp were very uplifting for me," added Ashburn. "I broke my leg in boot camp and didn't know it, so I would get down on myself sometimes because of the pain, but all those letters inspired me to dig deep and strive for my goal - to become a United States Marine."

"I was getting about 15 letters a night from all over the country," said Lance Cpl. Ian Allen, BLT 2/8, 81mm Mortarman, from Des Moines, Iowa. "It's a great thing to have around. It's like a big support group."

Lance Cpl. David Shields, Echo Battery 2/10, Cannoneer, from Sadler, Texas, explains how MMO is helpful to both Marines and their mothers.

"It benefits Marines in boot camp when they feel like giving up," said Shields. "Then they get all these letters, realize that someone cares and it's not that bad. For the most part though, MMO is for the mothers and I think it helps them the most because it eases their worries, and lets them know what's going on."

As this article began to unfold during the 24th MEU (SOC)'s transit across the Atlantic Ocean, stories of Marine Moms and sons of Marine Moms started to come in from everywhere. Here are a couple of Marine Moms stories of how they dealt with separation from their sons.

"I sure wish I had known about MMO when my son was in boot camp," said Laurel, Sgt. Robert Brock Crist's mom. "I bumped across MMO when I was surfing on the web for Marine things that I could send my son, or get for him for when he got out."

Laurel found consolation from the stories of other moms and dads that were similar to her own. She grew to understand that the relationship between her and her son was not hindered, but would be better. Robert accepted orders for embassy duty in Honduras and that increased the distance, but Laurel went to visit him. Things really changed when Robert got injured while in Honduras and Laurel had to turn to MMO for more help.

"[Robert] got a fractured back while in Honduras and was brought back into the States to another duty station," added Laurel. "He never went to another duty station, but was asked if he wanted out. He said 'NO.' He saw an opening for Presidential Commuter and asked if he could fill that position."

"The Marine Corps said okay and then put him through a series of flight physicals that could have paralyzed him. He turned up with four disks bulging after the physical and wanted to prove that he could do it.

"With prayers of Marine Moms Online and me sending those prayers, he made it. MMO gave him hope when he flunked the MRI and the X-Rays came back bad. The [Marine Corps] knew his determination and he got his job. The [Marine Corps] has made him spread his energy in a productive manner."

Lance Cpl. Marc Zacharias, BLT 2/8, Fox Co., crossed the Atlantic Ocean with the 24th MEU (SOC) aboard the USS Carter Hall, his mom wanted to share her experience with the MEU family.

"My son left for boot camp in August 1999," explains Colette. "Our family was on vacation, so I never even had a chance to hug him goodbye.

"The sight of his empty bedroom, the usual mess with his stuff strewn all over, made me cringe with loneliness. My son and I always had this special, close relationship that most moms share with their sons.

"I thought my heart was going to stop beating from the hole left in it," she added.

Colette started to think about all the horror stories that she'd heard about boot camp. She especially had a

dislike for the Marine Corps and sleepless nights led to tortured days and started to affect her work. She didn't want Marc to be so far away, so something had to be done.

"Late at night, until the wee hours of the morning, the computer neophyte that I was, I started surfing the Internet. I looked for all the information I could find that would take me a step closer to my son."

She found a couple of websites that helped a little, but none were Marine Moms Online. "One day I stumbled on the information that there was a website called 'Marine Moms Online' that was dedicated to mothers, who like me, wanted to know what their sons were doing and where they could find support from other moms.

"I'll never forget the feeling that made my heart beat faster when I realized that the voices of these Marine Moms echoed my feelings of loss and that they were grieving the absence of their son or daughter in the very same manner I was."

That was Colette's first day as a Marine Mom and she spent seven hours in cyberspace, from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. "Everyone welcomed me to the site," she said. "They told me what a wonderful decision my son had made and gave me strength and courage with every word I read. I felt elated ... I was NOT ALONE."

Now Colette is one of the

proud moms of a 24th MEU (SOC) Marine and she has a whole new perception of the Marine Corps.

"Marc has thanked me many, many times for the [sometimes very significant] info I passed on to him, which was gathered of course, from the MMO site. He shares all of it with his friends."

She adds, "He has been called 'celebrity du jour' for all the wonderful letters and cards he has received for his 26th birthday. Now my Marine is gone on a six-month 'Med float' with the 24th MEU (SOC) and I keep drawing the strength to cope with his absence from the MMO group. Their wisdom, spirit of generosity and dedication never cease to amaze me."

"God bless the MMO and all involved in it. You are my lifeline. Not a day goes by without me reaching for the cyber-hand you extend to myself and other Marine Moms."

"Semper Fi!"

Writer's Note: Many thanks go out to the mothers of Marine Moms Online. A large part of this story would not have been possible if it weren't for their remarkable efforts via email. Of course, the rest of the credit goes to the sons and daughters who serve this country proudly at the "Tip of the Spear." Check out the MMO website at <http://marinemomsonline.virtualave.net/>.

Base Safety, range facility warn: ‘Stay clear of range during fire’

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

Concern is growing among officials aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii over people walking into the impact area of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s weapons range at the Ulupa’u Crater next to Fort Hase beach.

People are disobeying a “Restricted Area” order which is in force along the shoreline of the Ulupa’u Crater upon entering the impact area of the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, according to Master Sgt. Gerardo V. Panetta, rifle range staff non-commissioned officer in charge.

A fence sticks out into the ocean to provide an entry barrier, but when it’s low tide violators can walk right around the fence.

“These types of incidents are happening more frequently, and people need to understand how dangerous it is to enter these restricted areas,” said Panetta.

Violations have forced the range to cease operations for hours at a time while range personnel clear trespassers out of the impact area.

A majority of the incidents are happening on the weekends, according to Panetta.

“What people aren’t realizing is that we have people firing on the R-6 range even

on the weekends,” said Panetta.

Several weeks ago, the range had to be shut down for hours, when a young boy entered the impact area during a weekend detail.

Not only is the trespassing a safety issue, but the time spent clearing out trespassers cuts into an already tight schedule of fire for the range.

When someone walks into the impact area of the ranges, there is an immediate cease-fire and shut down of the range, according to Panetta. The safety of these individuals is more important than completion of the mission.

“We’re looking into increasing signage and monitoring of this and other restricted areas on base,” said Keith Glavac, explosive safety officer for the Base Safety Office.

“We might also want to



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

A sign posted near the range warns trespassers of eminent danger.

change the wording of the signs to something different — like ‘Off Limits,’ ‘Danger Impact Area,’ or ‘Keep Out,’”said Glavac.

Since many of the violators are teenagers and young adults from the base, Panetta said parents should inform their children about the dangers of trespassing in restricted areas aboard the base.

Everyone must learn two indicators that reveal whether or not the range is “hot,” and whether Marines and Sailors (and other users) are firing weapons there.

Even if these indicators are not present, this area is still considered off limits and dangerous due to the possibility of the presence of unexploded ordnance.

First, listen for the sounds of weapons being fired.

Second, look for the red range flags that are posted any time the range is in use.

“When the red flags are up and the gates are open, the people need to be aware they are in danger of direct fire and ricochets,” said Panetta.

Soon, new signs, and increased monitoring will help ensure that no one gets hurt by literally walking into a life-threatening situation.

Until then, Marines, Sailors, their family members, and all visitors must be aware of the dangers and prohibitions against being in areas of the base that are off limits.

Taps



Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible

Corporal Nicholas Mainini, a trumpet player with the Marine Forces Pacific Band, plays a slow echo taps at halftime of the semi-professional North American Football League’s U.S. Armed Forces Dedication Bowl game Saturday between the Hawaiian Warriors and the Windward Hawks of the Hawaiian Football League division. The playing of taps took place after the roll-call of servicemembers killed in the line of duty since April 2000 when 19 Marines were killed in the crash of an MV-22 Osprey. The game was dedicated to the memory of the servicemembers who have given their lives for their country in and since that incident.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Blake Metcalf

Hill's family greets him after returning from a deployment with VP-4

SAILOR, From A-1

ence to meet the different people from the different areas of the Navy and see how the other side works”, Hill explained. “It’s a small world and a small Navy. I know I’ll be running into the same people I have met later in my career.”

Though this award is considered an individual award, Hill will be the first to tell you, it’s the help and support he received from his family and fellow Sailors that matters most. “There is no question, I couldn’t have come so far without the love and support of my wife, Gayle.”

VR-51, From A-1

breaking trip to Mongolia with less than 72 hours notice, and was also responsible for completing short notice missions in support of the White House staff on a sight survey throughout India. Additionally, the squadron flew over 300 flight hours in direct support of Commanding General, Marine Forces Pacific.

Less visible worldwide missions occurred throughout the year including operations to Chile, China, Bangladesh and Australia.

In addition, during 2000 no workdays were lost to ground accidents.

The squadron consists of 30 active duty, and 30 reserve personnel supplemented by 14 civilian maintainers. The squadron operates two C-20G aircraft.

to imprinting from furniture pads.

- Third-party servicing will likely be needed before moving such luxury items as hot tubs, large-screen TVs and some exercise equipment.
- Talk to the moving company about pre- and post-move servicing of washer, dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, grandfather clock, satellite dish and other such items.
- Think twice before dismantling

your outside TV antenna — a new one may cost less than shipping the present one.

Following these suggestions will safeguard valued items and help you have an efficient and painless move. There’s a wealth of information on the Internet about moving in general and military relocations in specific.

Use the keywords “military relocation” on any search engine for links.

TMO, From A-7